

Remarks

Claims 1-20 remain pending in this application after entry of this paper. Applicants have amended claims 1, 9, 17 and 19 to more particularly point out the invention. More specifically, claims 1 and 9 have been amended to recite that the first and second body portions connect and the first and second ends contain money in the tube body. Claims 17 and 19 have been amended to recite that the first and second ends contain money in the tube body.

Claims 1-8 are directed toward a money tube for use in a money dispensing unit. According to claim 1, the money tube comprises a centrally divided tube body having a first end, a second end, and a central portion. The tube body is composed of a first body portion and a second body portion. The first body portion includes the first end and defines a first central connector. The second body portion includes the second end and defines a second central connector. The first and second central connectors engage each other at the tube body central portion when connected to each other to hold the first body portion and the second body portion together. The first and second body portions connect and the first and second ends contain money in the tube body. Claims 2-8 recite various additional features of the money tube.

Claims 9-16 are directed toward the combination of a money dispensing unit and a money tube.

Claims 17 and 18 are directed toward a money tube for use in a money dispensing system. According to claim 17, the money tube comprises a centrally divided tube body having a first end, a second end, and a central portion. The tube body is composed of a first body end portion, a second body end portion, and a body middle portion. The first body end portion includes the first end and defines a first central connector. The second body end portion includes the second end and defines a second central connector. The first and second central connectors engage the body middle portion at the tube body central portion to hold the first body end portion and the second body end portion to the body middle portion. The first

and second ends contain money in the tube body. Claim 18 further recites that the first and second central connectors engage each other at the tube body central portion.

Claims 19 and 20 are directed toward the combination of a money dispensing unit and a money tube composed of a first body end portion, a second body end portion, and a body middle portion.

The invention is believed to be patentable.

The Examiner had rejected original claims 1-3, 5-11 and 13-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Zander (U.S. Patent No. 1,110,174). The Examiner had rejected original claims 4 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zander, further in view of Howe (U.S. Patent No. 475,563).

With regard to Zander, Zander does describe a coin tube. The Zander coin tube is described as a coin-collecting tube for vending machines, having an apertured coin-receiving cap on one end, and a secure but removable closure on the other end secured to the tube by a destructible seal. The tube is adapted such that when the cap is removed, the tube may be inserted into a corresponding part of a coin counting machine.

With regard to independent claims 1 and 9, these claims recite a specific combination of features including a centrally divided tube body wherein first and second body portions connect and the first and second tube body ends contain money in the tube body. Zander fails to anticipate the invention. Zander does not suggest a centrally divided tube body. In contrast, Zander describes an elongate tube A with a coin receiving cap on one end and a removable closure on the other end. Thus, the Zander coin tube is not a centrally divided tube body, but instead is an elongated tube body with a closure device on each end. The Examiner refers to tube G, shown in Figures 4-6 of Zander. As explained by the Zander specification, tube G is not part of the money tube, but instead adapts the coin collecting tube to the coin counting machine. More specifically, tube G has a sliding piece H with which it slides

between rails I of the counting machine. The coin collecting tube itself is not centrally divided and is merely an elongated tube having a closure device on each end.

Further, claims 1 and 9 each recite that the first and second ends contain money in the tube body. So, even if the Examiner were to attempt to read Applicants' claim on Figures 4-6 of Zander, this arrangement in Zander does not have first and second ends containing money in the tube body. The arrangement shown by Zander including tube G is specifically for adapting the coin collecting tube for connection to a coin counting machine and by its nature allows the coins to exit lower opening L for counting.

Thus, Zander as a whole fails to suggest the invention. The Zander coin collecting tube itself is not a centrally divided tube body as recited by Applicants' claims. When tube G is in place, this arrangement of Zander still fails to meet Applicants' claim limitations as in this arrangement the coin tube is not arranged such that first and second ends contain money in the tube body. In any arrangement, Zander fails to suggest the invention.

With regard to independent claims 17 and 19, these claims are also believed to be patentable. Each of these independent claims recites a centrally divided tube body composed of a first body end portion, a second body end portion, and a body middle portion. As well, these claims recite that the first and second ends contain money in the tube body. Again, Zander fails to describe a centrally divided tube body including the recited features wherein the first and second ends contain money in the tube body. As well, claims 17 and 19 specifically recite that the tube body is composed of a first body end portion, a second body end portion, and a body middle portion which is not suggested by Zander.

All remaining claims are dependent claims and are also believed to be patentable.

With regard to Howe, Howe does describe slots 4 on the covers of coin holders. However, Howe fails to overcome the deficiencies noted above in Zander. Zander in

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combination with Howe still fails to suggest the claimed centrally divided tube body when the first and second ends contain money in the tube body.

For the reasons given above, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner allow pending claims 1-20.

A check in the amount of \$120.00 is enclosed to cover the Petition fee of \$120.00. Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments as a result of the filing of this paper to our Deposit Account No. 02-3978.

Respectfully submitted,

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